

GARY WEBSTER: Good morning. My name is Gary Webster. I'm Congressman Chris Stewart's District Director. Congressman Stewart represents Utah's Second Congressional District. I'm reading the following statement on behalf of the congressman: "Thank you for the opportunity to address all of you this morning as the Department of the Interior tries to determine the scope of their comprehensive renewal" -- excuse me -- "review of the Federal Coal Program. I also appreciate the open-door policy that Director Kornze has provided to me and my staff. "I'm disappointed this meeting is not being held in Central Utah. The effect of the coal moratorium has a disproportionate effect on coal country, and the BLM should have taken this into consideration. That is why I asked the director in person and followed up with a letter requesting that the meeting be moved. "I encourage the Department to consider the effect of the mineral program and the effect of the moratorium on that community. The Department of Interior should reconsider the coal leasing moratorium. Short of this I formally request that the Bureau give full and fair consideration to all pending coal lease applications and proposals. "I ask the Bureau to pay particular attention to the permits and proposals for the Greens Hollow Tract and the Alton Coal Tract. I appreciate the Department evaluating their programs and to guard the taxpayer and ensure a fair market value for the country's resources. "I strongly encourage the Bureau to be fair and impartial in their review of the Federal Coal Program and to recognize their mandate to manage the land for multiple use. "Lastly, thank you to those in the mining industry and the families of these workers who sacrifice to be here today. I know you represent a number of my constituents who are unable to attend. Thank you for being here today. Thank you for your time. Congressman Chris Stewart."